

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION
Education Committee**

**LOCATION
Governor's Council Conference Room
3601 C Street
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference**

**Meeting Date
April 25, 2013
1:30 p.m.**

Attendees:

Taylor Gregg – chair
Don Enoch
Ernie Manzie
Terese Kashi
Justine Sheehan
Kim McNamara
Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus
Julie Broyles

Community Members:

Tonja Updike
Patrick Pillai
Angelina Ahrens
Carla Abild
Starr Marsett
Mary Elam

Staff:

Christie Reinhardt

Prepared by:
Sheila Garrant, Peninsula Reporting

CALL TO ORDER – 1:30 p.m.
ROLL CALL

Welcome from the Chair

Announcements and Good News

Jeanne Gerhardt-Cyrus shared her experience regarding her daughter's struggles in high school and that the academic principal and special education teacher at Mount Edgecumbe High School seem to be willing to look at accommodations and support for students with FASD. She also noted that her other daughter has been involved in filming activities at the school and has also completed her math testing.

Justine Sheehan was pleased to share that her father is visiting.

Reading of the Council Mission

Justine Sheehan read the Council mission: Creating change that improves the lives of people with disabilities.

Approval of the Agenda and Past Meeting Minutes

Ernie Manzie **MOVED** to approve the meeting agenda as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Terese Kashi **MOVED** to approve the March 21st, 2013 meeting minutes as written. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Correspondence

Christie Reinhardt reported that she provided testimony for the Council last week at the State Board of Education meeting on removing the requirement of the Terra Nova. She reported that she was contacted by Dr. Susan McCauley, the director of teaching and learning support for the Department of Education, advising her that Alaska was approved to join Smarter Balance, a consortium of states that are looking at state assessments and doing evaluations of the rigorousness of other state assessments. Christie Reinhardt will send out an e-mail with information about Smarter Balance to committee members. Don Enoch commented that at present, Alaska is

part of the consortium, but not an active member, as this group has been working for over a year and Alaska has just joined. Christie Reinhardt noted that the assessments for Alaska's new standards under the Smarter Balance will begin in 2015.

Conference Updates

Taylor Gregg informed the committee members of the upcoming conferences:

- Early Childhood Mental Health Conference is scheduled for April 30th through May 2nd, 2013. For further information go to <http://www.ecmhl.org>
- April is National Autism Month. Check AK Connect for events at <http://www.asdk12.org/AFD/AKConnect>
- Governor's Council meeting is scheduled for May 7th through May 9th, 2013 in Anchorage
- FASD Conference is scheduled for May 22nd through May 24th, 2013. FASD 101 and 201 pre-conference is scheduled for May 21st, 2013. For more information go to: <http://www.akfasd2013.org>

Christie Reinhardt informed the committee members the Exceptional Family Member Program Resource Fair, which is open to military families, is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Education Center. For further information contact Christie Reinhardt.

Annual Review of Accomplishments and Five-Year Work Plan

Christie Reinhardt led a review of the five-year work plan goals and the accomplishments of the past year.

1. **Advocate for a minimum of 20 new or amended state or public programs, policies, or practices per year that improves the quality of education for students with disabilities:**
 - a. Continued advocacy for alternate routes for students with disabilities to pass the HSGQE.
 - b. Advocated for improved secondary transition services in rural areas with Rural Ad Hoc Committee and a presentation about rural transition at ASSEC.

- c. Advocate for the continuation of intensive needs funding.

2. Supporting the capacity building activities that improve the quality of education for students with disabilities:

- a. Present annual award to teachers who promote inclusion, universal design, and assistive technology.
- b. Advocate for training for parents and students with disabilities and an annual parent conference, which was supporting Stone Soup Group's parent conference.

3. Meet federally mandated requirements as Alaska' Special Education Advisory Panel (SEAP):

- a. Support Council members, self-advocates, and family members to comment on proposed education regulations that impact the lives of students with disabilities; regularly make comment on regulations to the Board of Education.
- b. Participate in planning the Alaska Statewide Special Education Conference and Special Education Directors Meeting.
- c. Post best practice information, trainings, and articles on Alaska Special Education listserv.

4. Governing the Special Education Service Agency to ensure SESA meets its statutory mandated responsibilities:

- a. Support SESA's work through the legislative process.

Priority Recommendations for the Next Year

Christie Reinhardt thanked the committee members for responding quickly and passionately to the survey relating to the priorities. The committee reviewed the five priority recommendations of the Education Committee for 2013-2014:

- 1. Continue to advocate for alternative routes for students with disabilities to pass the high school graduation qualifying examination or receive a diploma.
- 2. Advocate for improved secondary transition services in rural areas.

3. Continue to promote the creation of state and/or federal regulations regarding restraint and seclusion in schools.
4. Showcase innovative programs and create a clearinghouse of successful practices.
5. Support efforts to increase a well-trained and highly-qualified work force sufficient to meet the needs of students with disabilities

Report from HSGQE Subcommittee

Ernie Manzie reported that the subcommittee has been reviewing the information received from the Department of Education relating to graduation rates and trying identify what questions they want to ask and what areas to focus on to ensure that students with disabilities aren't faced with unfair hurdles. He noted that the subcommittee will be looking for clarification and direction from the Council when the Education Committee presents their work plan at the Council meeting in May.

Report from SESA

Patrick Pillai began by thanking the Governor's Council and everyone affiliated with the Council for their hard work, support, and dedication vested in assisting SESA's work through the legislative process. SESA received an eight-year reauthorization, 2013 through 2021, and an 18 percent funding increase. He reported that in order to balance the budget with the funding they received, SESA had to reduce their staff by four positions.

Patrick Pillai noted that there was a recommendation that SESA be moved from the Governor's Council to the Department of Education, but the version of House Bill 87 that went to the Governor for signature kept SESA in the Council's governorship.

Report from EED

Don Enoch informed the committee that the Department will be posting a job opening for a special education administrative coach. He noted that the coach position works with new special education directors to improve

their success during their first year in hopes of providing more retention.

Don Enoch reported that the Department has their intensive funding review completed, and they are currently working with districts in the appeals process.

Don Enoch noted that the determination letters for the APR have been sent out to the districts, and the monitoring schedule for the upcoming year is online now. He noted that the directors training for next year is scheduled for September 17th and 18th, and it will include training for the online grant system.

Don Enoch reported that they are processing the 6B and 619 grants coming in from the districts, which are due April 30th. He noted that with regards to the federal 6B and 619 grants, the Department is getting their first look at the effect sequestration will have on federal funding.

Don Enoch informed the committee that Sam Jordan is working on a mini grant for secondary transition targeting districts that have specific issues to see if they are willing to take a grant and try something and document the results in order to clone its success to use with other districts also struggling with secondary transition issues.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for May 23rd, 2013 from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The Education Committee meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.